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to large bins, into which it pours and cools. This process, which is known as the Frasch process after its inventor, has been described as one of the triumphs of modern technology, and its successful application to the Gulf Coast deposits has in the past fifteen years transferred the center of the world's sulphur industry from the island of Sicily to the United States, making our nation absolutely independent of the rest of the world in this important particular.

With the development of the world war, the sulphur deposits of the Gulf Regions have, of course, assumed special importance as supplying the sulphur needed in the manufacture of gunpowder and other explosives. But in addition to this, these deposits have quite unexpectedly during the past few months been able to meet and solve a critical resource problem arising out of the submarine campaign. This problem concerned the raw materials of the large and very vital sulphuric-acid industry, and arose from the fact that most of the several million tons of sulphuric acid used in this country was made from a sulphur-bearing mineral called pyrite, brought as ballast in quantity from large deposits in Spain. The restricted shipping conditions resulting from recent events as a matter of course seriously affected this source of supply, and since sulphuric acid is a product nearly as fundamental to industry as iron or coal, the situation bade fair to assume critical proportions. But it so happens that crude sulphur under emergency can also be used in making sulphuric acid, and accordingly the Gulf sulphur deposits have come forward to tide over the dearth of Spanish pyrite until the domestic supplies of pyrite, which are adequate but as yet only in part developed, can be brought up to a suitable measure of productiveness.

There are numerous lean deposits

of sulphur in many of the western states, but these as yet have practically no effect upon the output of the country. It is therefore certain that without the Gulf deposits and the ingenious method of making them available, this country would have scarcely been able to meet successfully the war needs of sulphur and sulphuric acid; which goes to show, of course, the pressing necessity for widespread appreciation and understanding of the importance of proper development of the mineral industries of our nation.

WAR WORK OF THE U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

THE steamers *Surveyor*, *Isis* and *Bache*, of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, their crews and 38 commissioned officers of the survey have been transferred to the Navy Department, and 29 commissioned officers and 10 members of the office force have been transferred to the War Department with military rank corresponding to their grade in the survey.

In conformity with the wishes of the Navy Department, after the beginning of the war all of the topographic, hydrographic and wire-drag work of the survey was directed so as to meet the most urgent military needs of the Navy Department. The work done comprises wire-drag surveys on the New England coast and coast of Florida; hydrographic surveys on the South Atlantic coast and Gulf of Mexico; the beginning of a survey of the Virgin Islands; the investigation of various special problems for the Navy Department; wire-drag surveys, current observations, and special work on the Pacific coast; and surveys in the Philippine Islands.

The work undertaken for the War Department by the field parties of the Coast and Geodetic Survey was intended to furnish points

and elevations for the control of topographic surveys for military purposes. To expedite this work an allotment was made from the appropriation for the War Department to cover the expenses of the field parties employed. The chief of the division of geodesy was authorized to confer with officers of the Corps of Engineers, United States Army, and officials of the Department of the Interior in regard to the proper coordination of the various operations.

Extensive surveys were undertaken, including primary triangulation, primary traverse, precise leveling and determination of differences of longitude, and good progress has been made, and the results of previous surveys have been made available by copies or in published form as promptly as possible. From April, 1917, to January, 1918, 80 per cent. of the time of the office force of the geodetic division was devoted to war work.

RECONSTRUCTION OF CRIP- PLED SOLDIERS

SURGEON-GENERAL GORGAS has issued a recommendation that hereafter no member of the military service disabled in line of duty, even though not expected to return to duty, will be discharged from service until he has attained complete recovery or as complete recovery as it is to be expected that he will attain when the nature of his disability is considered. The inauguration of this continued treatment will result, during the period of the war, in the saving to the service of a large number of efficient officers and soldiers who without it would never become able to perform duty. Physical reconstruction is defined as the completest form of medical and surgical treatment carried to the point where maximum functional restoration, mental and physical,

has been secured. To secure this result the use of work, mental and manual, will be required during the convalescent period. This therapeutic measure, in addition to aiding greatly in shortening the convalescent period, retains or arouses mental activities, preventing "hospitalization," and enables the patient to be returned to service or civil life with the full realization that he can work in his handicapped state, and with habits of industry much encouraged if not firmly formed.

At each hospital where reconstruction work is carried on there will be a special "educational" officer, whose functions are to arrange for and supervise, under the direction of the commanding officer of the hospital, the means provided for the use of therapeutic work, such as curative workshops, classes, etc.; to act as technical adviser to the commanding officer on this subject; to recommend the development of necessary means to keep patients employed so far as it is possible to do so; to make the necessary records of work done in his department; and to have immediate charge of any special training of vocational nature which can be given with the means at hand.

These officers are to be obtained from the ranks of teachers, vocational instructors and others especially qualified, and will be selected for their training, experience and peculiar fitness for the work. Where it is possible a man will be obtained who is himself handicapped by some physical disability and who has made a success in life.

As a result of a survey made by the Surgeon-General's Office of men already undergoing reconstruction treatment in this country, it is expected that enlisted men who have completed their treatment and retraining, but who are unfitted for further field service, will be found worthy of commissions and well